

# THE STROBE

## FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Issue 1

February 8, 1995

# Smart Choices grant expires

## 'Kreidler-Phaneuf left without a job'

by Marshal DeLisle  
Strobe staff

A student's life is full of choices. But, next fall, FSC students will have fewer Smart Choice options to choose from.

Since fall of 1993, the Smart Choices Program, in conjunction with the Substance Awareness Office, has provided students with educational and supportive services to increase alcohol and drug awareness on campus. The program has been funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Schools (FIPSS).

However, this grant will run out in August of this year, and as a result of Department of Education cuts in Washington, renewal FIPSS grant proposals will not be reissued.

"I want students to know that the Smart Choices Program will not end, but the Substance Awareness Office and my position will be phased out," said Substance Awareness Coordinator

Holly Kreidler-Phaneuf.

The Smart Choices proponents will be taken on by different departments, such as Residential Life, Counseling Services and Health Services, she said.

"The good thing about having one central office was that students could come to one place for information. This one location could tie together all the issues linked to alcohol and substance abuse and show how these problems affect students' lives," she said.

During the past two years, the Smart Choices Program has implemented services such as peer education, a resource library, and the Substance Awareness Task Force.

According to Kreidler-Phaneuf, 75 percent of her salary was funded by the grant. She was hoping that the college would pick up her position in the new budget.

"When the grant proposal was drawn up, I told Dr. Ratto, Vice President of Stu-

dent Affairs, that we would share the necessary costs during the grant period but would not pick up any personnel costs after the lifespan of the grant expires," said President Mara.

Nevertheless, Kreidler-Phaneuf has received several letters supporting the program. Some students have

come to expect programs like Smart Choices as part of the college plan.

cont. on pg 2

## FSC's black women honored

by Derek Valcourt  
Strobe staff

What began as Negro History Week in 1926 and evolved to National Black History Month as we know it today is once again celebrated this year with an itinerary of events hosted by the Access office.

Tonight, "A Tribute to Black Women" honors five African American women who work at Fitchburg State College. Thelma Khelghati of Graduate and Continuing Education, Sophia Carroll of Nursing, Carolyn Dalton from Admissions, Maxine Smith from Academic Affairs, and Sibyl Brownlee of Nursing will all be honored at a dinner and presentation in the G-rooms from 5:30

to 7:30 p.m.

"If you look back in African history, the mother, the woman is perceived as central to the community," said Albert Turner, an associate in the Access office. "This doesn't really take away from the strength of black men, rather it looks at a situation where family success and community success cannot be achieved unless responsibilities are shared across the genders."

The are forty slots open for the event which Turner believes will be filled easily.

On February 14, writer, activist, and Professor of History at Macalaster College Dr. Mahmoud El-Kati will deliver a lectured titled "Would America Be America Without

Black People?"

El-Kati has a record of commitment to the global black community. He has written articles, essays, and reviews ranging from history and social criticism to art and politics.

"Mahmoud is an amazingly patient, proud black man with a wealth of information, story, and experience around his blackness, given so freely," says a former student.

The talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall and is free and open to the public.

The 12th Annual Heritage Ball will be held this year at the Leominster Elks Club on February 24, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The tickets are \$16 and can be purchased by calling 345-2151 ext. 3399.

## Local journalists discuss the role of 'media in politics'

by Tim Vecchiarelli  
Strobe staff

"We are the liaisons, the decision makers . . . we decide how the public is going to view a person or event." This is how Larry Wolpe stressed the importance and responsibility of the media today. Wolpe, the news director of WEIM radio in Fitchburg, was one of the three guest speakers at the "Media in Politics" panel in the Ellis White Lecture Hall on February 2.

The panel included Wolpe, George P. Snell of the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, and William Birham, the city reporter for the Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise. The audience for the presentation consisted mostly of journalism and political science students, and as one speaker humorously observed, "half of you are my future colleagues and the other half I may be reporting on someday."

Each of the speakers touched on their own points about the role of the media in politics, which ranged from tips for starting journalists to some

personal stories illustrating the challenges and difficulties of political reporting today. They did all agree on some important things to remember, each using his own words to show a universal concern. "There is always more than one point of view in political journalism. The number one rule is to be balanced and fair. This includes checking other sources that you know will think differently from your original source," said Birham.

Wolpe and Snell also mentioned similar points and maintained that there is no real "objective journalism," only an honest attempt to give both sides of the story.

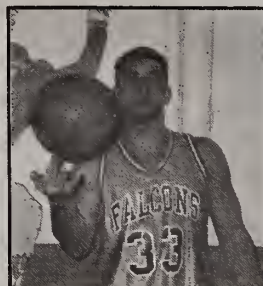
All agreed on the power of the media to influence people's perceptions. "Sometimes you get caught up in the day to day work, trying to generate a story, and sometimes you forget that the people you are writing about will be affected," said Snell. "We have the power to change people's reality, and you have to stop and think about that once in a while."



William Birham, Larry Wolpe, and George Snell discuss media in politics

Photo by Jen Scull

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Nick Chareas  
a.k.a. 'Niko'

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## Fire alarms keep students in the cold

by Kevin Robertson  
Contributing writer

Standing out in the cold, New England frost is not the best activity for America's future. But the reality is that Fitchburg State deals with a huge amount of fire alarms.

On Thursday February 26, Russell Tower alarms kept residents out in the cold until 6:30 a.m.

The alarm was pulled by a resident who noticed a smoking trash can.

"We left our rooms about 4:30 a.m. and returned close to 6:30," said resident Jeremy Klegg. "It was close to freezing."

Public Safety directed the students into the commuter cafe against school policy.

According to John Fulmer, Resident Director of Russell Towers, proper procedure is to allow students into G-lobby to stay warm until the fire department completes its sweep

of the building.

"I had just gone to bed and I was beat, so I stretched out wherever they let us in," said resident Alex Newbold.

During the evacuation, another resident put out the fire with a nearby extinguisher.

"What she did was a good idea, but we would rather people not try to be heroes and simply evacuate. Property can be replaced, lives can't," said Fulmer.

Fulmer insisted that there are fifty percent less fire alarms than when he became Resident Director three years ago. There is also less evidence of foul play such as, smoking in the suite lounge and aerosol cans, he said.

He stressed the importance of following evacuation rules.

"I can't say enough how accidents and problems can be avoided by utilizing proper procedures," he said.

## Civil rights activist to speak on campus

FSC Press release

Civil rights activist Linda Chavez, head of the Center for the New American Community, will deliver a free public lecture at Fitchburg State College on Feb. 28, at 8 p.m. in Kent Hall of the Conlon Building.

This talk is part of the college's Visiting Artists and Lecturers Series.


Chavez is the author of *Out of the Barrio: Toward a New Politics of Hispanic Assimilation*, which addresses such issues as bilingual education, voting rights, immigration policy and affirmative action. The New York Times has referred to her as "an influential voice on civil rights policy." The Washington Post described her as one of "a new generation of intellectuals seeking to question the orthodoxies of the civil rights establishment."

As head of the Center of the New American Community, she oversees that group's efforts to "build a common American civic culture." The Center sponsors conferences, speakers, and a quarterly newsletter.

Many know Chavez from her regular appearances on PBS's weekly public affairs program "To the Contrary," CNN's weekday morning show "Crier & Co.," and as a 1992 election commentator for "The McNeil-Lehrer Newshour." She has been a regular contributor to National Public Radio and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on national politics, foreign affairs and domestic policy. Other appearances include Good Morning America, the Today Show, CBS Morning News, the Phil Donahue Show, and Geraldo. She writes frequently for a variety of publications, including USA Today, Fortune, The Wall Street Journal, The New Republic, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Post and the Houston Chronicle.

Chavez has held a number of political positions, among them White House director of public liaisons (1985) and staff director of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights (1983-1985). She won the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator from Maryland (1986), but lost in the general election. The following year, she became president of U. S. English (1987-1988), a public interest group dealing with language policy in the United States. Chavez was the editor of the prize-winning quarterly journal of the American Federation of Teachers, *American Educator* (1977-1983).

The Fitchburg State lecture series continues on March 28 with William Raspberry, urban affairs columnist for The Washington Post.




present

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### Smart choices cont. from pg 1

"Shouldn't this kind of thing be covered under our \$750 in special fees" said sophomore Kate Schuren.

According to President Mara, tough times lie ahead for higher education. Enrollment in public colleges is declining, showing a lack of public interest in schools. This allows politicians and government leaders to direct funds to other issues.



"In the future, it must be clear that any government funded programs awarded to the school will only last for the duration of the grant," he said.

In order to use the remainder of the \$150,000 grant before the term expires, Kreidler-Phaneuf has been ordering brochures and books to extend the lifespan of the Smart Choices program after the office is phased out. In addition, the office is supporting many spring events including the Condom Olympics on Valentine's Day and the Spring Fling.







HELP!! "Lucky" the bear was found falling off a car driving down Highland Ave. before Christmas break. If you lost "Lucky," see James Rogers at the FSC Press in the Industrial Arts Building or call 665-3210.



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HOW TO HANG ON TO YOUR DOUGH.  
(WITHOUT CRAMPING YOUR STYLE)

-  **Separate "needs" from "wants."**  
Hint: A bed is a need. A Mr. Microphone is a want.
-  **Split the bill but only pay your share.**  
Why put in for someone else's swordfish if all you got was soup?
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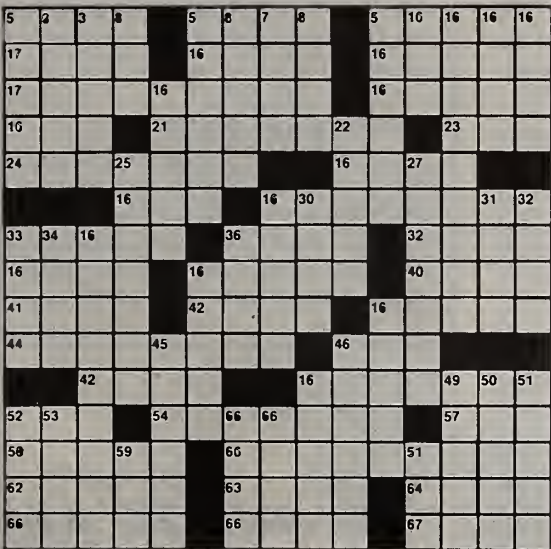
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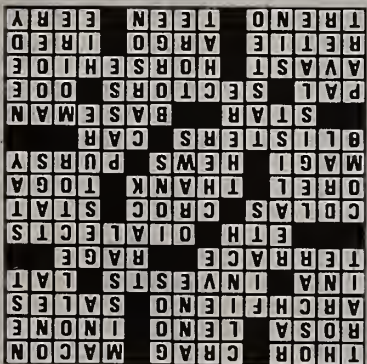
THE Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Norse god
  - 5 Rocky peak
  - 9 City near Atlanta
  - 14 Ponselle or Bonheur
  - 15 Funny Jay
  - 16 Hole —
  - 17 Satan
  - 19 Events for shoppers
  - 20 One — million
  - 21 Buys stocks e.g.
  - 23 Old lang.
  - 24 Outdoor area for socials
  - 26 Fury
  - 28 Biblical ending
  - 29 Varieties of speech
  - 33 Fountain drinks
  - 36 Gator's kin
  - 37 ERA e.g.
  - 38 Pitcher Hershisier
  - 39 Express gratitude
  - 40 Forum wear
  - 41 "Gift of the —"
  - 42 Chops down
  - 43 Quite fat
  - 44 Reproves harshly
  - 46 Sedan
  - 47 Headliner
  - 48 Infielder
  - 52 Crony
  - 54 Areas
  - 57 Work by Keats
  - 58 Nautical call
  - 60 Baseball
  - 62 Bind again
  - 63 Jason's ship
  - 64 Angered
  - 65 Inclination
  - 66 Youthful suffix
  - 67 Uncanny
- DOWN
- 1 Distinguishing feature
  - 2 Singer Lena
  - 3 Acting award
  - 4 Stadium cheer
  - 5 Settle conclusively
  - 6 Actor Christopher
  - 7 — Boleyn
  - 8 Deities
  - 9 Prayer book
  - 10 TV actress Alicia
  - 11 Tax or garbage end
  - 12 Draft status
  - 13 Cozy home
  - 18 Decrees
  - 22 Train rail
  - 25 Follower of pragmatism
  - 27 Hand motion
  - 29 Sketches
  - 30 Charged particles
  - 31 License and dog
  - 32 Remain
  - 33 Search carefully
  - 34 Verbal
  - 35 Pass laws
  - 36 Mrs. Bono once
  - 39 "— you go again"
  - 43 Outdated
  - 45 Took a sip
  - 46 Johnny or Kit Victor
  - 48 Pianist-comic
  - 49 Watered silk
  - 50 Poisonous snake
  - 51 Indigent
  - 52 Role
  - 53 State firmly
  - 55 Conversation
  - 56 Ripped
  - 59 Moral lapse
  - 61 Hasten



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ANSWERS



MR. COLLEGE BY ANTHONY RUBINO, JR.  
A WILD KINGDOM FEATURE

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Fed-up with his constant complaining, Spock slaps McCoy about the face and head until he cries like a ten-year-old girl.

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## FSC Rescue Squad above and beyond the call of duty

by Deanna Aldsworth  
Strobe staff

The tone of the pager shrieks through the air, you feel an incredible breeze as a blob of dark blue and orange flies by you. This is the action of a Rescue Squad member on duty. The Rescue Squad is a campus organization consisting of mostly undergraduate students who are on call 24 hours a day, along with Public Safety, to answer calls for emergency service on this campus.

Founded in 1991 by undergraduate students Tim Liptrap and Carol Hatch, the Squad has encountered many stumbling blocks yet continues to thrive, now more than ever.

Members of the Rescue Squad who run duty with Public Safety are all certified First Responders. What does that mean? They are all able to administer basic emergency medical treatment to a person until a qualified professional arrives on scene to better assist the victim.

Jonathan Holt, presi-

dent of the Squad, has been a dedicated addition to the organization for 4 years. He is a senior Biology major with aspirations of going to medical school. "I feel that being a member of the Rescue Squad and running duty gives students the confidence and experience they will need to go out into the real world

active. "We are averaging about one call per night this semester," said Holt. A total of 56 emergency calls, which Rescue Squad members responded to, were reported last semester alone.

"I don't know why we are not getting support on campus," said Holt. "We are here to save lives and it seems like no one wants us to do that."

The Rescue Squad's home in Thompson, Room T1, has been completely renovated into a Psychology classroom and testing room. With no office to operate out of, the Squad was offered to be moved down to the McKay Building. However, as Holt put it, we could get a call where someone on campus could be dying, every second counts. Being down at McKay would greatly reduce the response time of the member on duty."

The majority of the Fitchburg State College Campus is located along Pearl and Highland Streets, McKay is approximately one-quarter of a mile away from the bulk of the campus, where most of the students and faculty are located.

and, in an emergency, say 'Outta my way, I know what to do!'"

Consisting of approximately 40 active members, the squad has had its best year. Compared to the 93-94 academic year, which saw 22 calls total, this year has been twice as



### FSC Rescue Squad SUMMARY OF CALLS FALL '94

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Respiratory Arrest                              |
| 1  | Pale Diaphoretic, Blood Pressure below 90 mm Hg |
| 2  | Chest Pain                                      |
| 6  | Difficulty Breathing                            |
| 4  | Dizziness, Vomiting                             |
| 3  | Abdominal Pain                                  |
| 3  | Back Pain                                       |
| 19 | Injuries to Extremities                         |
| 3  | Dislocation                                     |
| 1  | Facial Trauma                                   |
| 1  | Second Degree Burn                              |
| 1  | Chemical Burn                                   |
| 2  | Psychological Emergency                         |
| 1  | Head Injury                                     |
| 8  | Other   |
| 56 | TOTAL   |

## Police Log

Sunday, January 22, 1995

Larceny-Of property taken from a car parked in Upper Cedar Lot.

Request For Police- DAKA van out of gas at the intersection of Highland and Pearl Streets. Contacted DAKA manager.

Dispersal-Of several youths from North #3 lot. Disturbing local residents.

Noise Complaint-Residents of Russell Towers told to quiet down.

Monday, January 23, 1995

Fire Alarm-Sounding in Russell Towers. Unknown reasons.

Larceny- Of personal property taken from a classroom at McKay Campus School.

Motor Vehicle- Hit & run accident reported in the Lower Weston Lot.

Medical/Rescue-Male student with a lacerated hand treated and transported to Burbank Hospital.

Larceny- Of FSC property from the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Motor Vehicle- Hit & Run accident reported in the Percival Lot.

Fire Alarm- McKay School. Overheated Hotplate.

Dispersal- Four local youngsters with sticks asked to leave the Miller Lot.

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Medical /Rescue-Female with chest pains taken to Burbank ER via ambulance.

Larceny-Of personal property from a car parked in Upper Weston Lot.

Larceny-Of a textbook reportedly taken from classroom in Percival Hall.

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Larceny-Of a bicycle from in front of McKay School.

Larceny-Of FSC property from the Hammond Building.

Suspicious Activity- Reports of local youths running thru the tunnel and the Hammond Building. Gone upon our arrival.

Friday, January 27, 1995

Fire Alarm- Trash barrel fire in Russell Towers.

Vandalism- To the front of the Hammond Building.

Protective Custody- One male subject.

Vandalism- To FSC property outside Russell Towers.

Intrusion Alarm- Sounding in the Conlon IA Building. Accidental.

Saturday, January 28, 1995

Vandalism- To FSC property inside Russell Towers.

Recovered Stolen Property- Bicycle stolen from McKay on 1/26/95 confiscated from local youths and returned to owner.

First Aid- Female student in our station to have wrist bandaged.

Returned Property- Textbook reported stolen on 1/25/95 turned into our Lost & Found. Returned to owner.

## KABLOOEY by Blue





# The Ice Men cometh

by Tarra Martinez  
and Todd Finn  
Staff writers

After crushing Curry College last Tuesday in a dramatic 7-4 win the Fitchburg State hockey team is now carrying an ECAC record of 12-0, and could very well be headed for another championship year.

Curry dominated the beginning of the game, with a score of 2-0 at the close of the first period. However, the mighty Green battled their way back, scoring two goals of their own in the second period, and five in the third. The final two goals came within the last thirty seconds of the game.

Fitchburg State then traveled to Assumption for the

much anticipated rematch of last year's championship game. The Hounds came out fired up scoring the game's first goal, but Dale Kimball and Rob Lavery assisted on the Steve Lyden Goal to tie the game. Soon after, Steve Baldassare scored off a Mark Pillsbury assist. Never to be quickly outgunned, however, Assumption got the equalizer just before the end of the first period.

In the second period, Dan Genatossio reached into his bag and pulled out a hat trick, scoring three times for the Falcons. Assumption managed to squeak two goals by Aaron Abitz who had 35 total saves, but FSC entered the final twenty minutes with a 5-4 lead.

Finally, in the breathtaking minutes of the last period,

freshman sensation Rob Lavery blasted the puck by the Ice Dog goaltender, and Bill Mastrangelo slammed home the Falcons' final score as a counter offensive to A.C.'s sandwiched goal. When all was said and done and the Zamboni man cleared the ice, it was the State College from Pearl Street which took home the win. So much for private school superiority.

The wrecking crew returns home tonight to play North Adams State College, and their 14 game winning streak will once again be laid on the line for the Mohawks to try and snap. It might be a good idea to catch them now, as next week's opponent, Salem State, will be the final team to play in Fitchburg before the playoffs.



Pat Turner (14), John Cherubini (27), and Rob Lavery (7) blaze the ice at the Wallace Civic Center. photo by Todd Finn

## Announcements

**The Peer Support Group for Students with Disabilities** will meet Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 pm in rooms B26/27 in the Hammond Building. Kathy Larocco (Counseling Services) and Janice Gaidanowicz (Project Enable) will be facilitating.

**RIDE NEEDED TO WORCESTER ON FRIDAYS:** Dr. Harriet Alonso is looking for a ride to the Peter Pan or Greyhound Bus Station on Fridays. She can leave anytime after 12:20 pm, but is interested in reaching the stations by 2:40 pm at the latest. Her extension is 3086. She would be happy to contribute to your gas money.

Come fill out nominations for Spring Convocation Awards until February 15, in the SGA office. Tables will also be set up tomorrow and the 14th in G-Lobby.

Representatives from the IRS will be on campus Friday, February 17, from 10 am until 2 pm in the conference room of the Sanders Building. Students will be able to file their returns electronically at no cost. The representatives will also offer basic assistance in completing returns. Students should bring all their paperwork (w-2, 10-99, and forms) with them. Questions: Lisa at ext. 3175.

New Fitness Center to open in the Parkinson Gymnasium soon. See next week's Strobe for details.

**ORGANIZATION MEETING 1995 SAXIFRAGE YEARBOOK:** Thursday, February 9, 1:30 pm in the Yearbook office, Lower level Hammond Building, room B14. WE NEED WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND PEOPLE WITH COMPUTER SKILLS who are willing to work a few hours per week to produce the 1995 yearbook. No experience necessary, but it is preferred. If we don't recruit a staff at this meeting, there will be no Yearbook.

The Early Childhood Club is looking for new officers and members. The club meets regularly on Thursday's at 1:30 in McKay C179. Refreshments are served. Please join our club and get to know the Early Childhood faculty and majors. Looks great on resumes!

The Yearbook photographer will be here to take photographs of ALL 1995 GRADUATING SENIORS on:  
Feb. 27, 10-4pm  
Feb. 28, 12-7:30pm  
March 1-3, 9-4pm  
You do not need an appointment. Just show up.

**STROBE PERSONALS** will continue beginning next issue. Leave a twenty-five word or less message to one of your friends in the Strobe for only fifty cents! We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

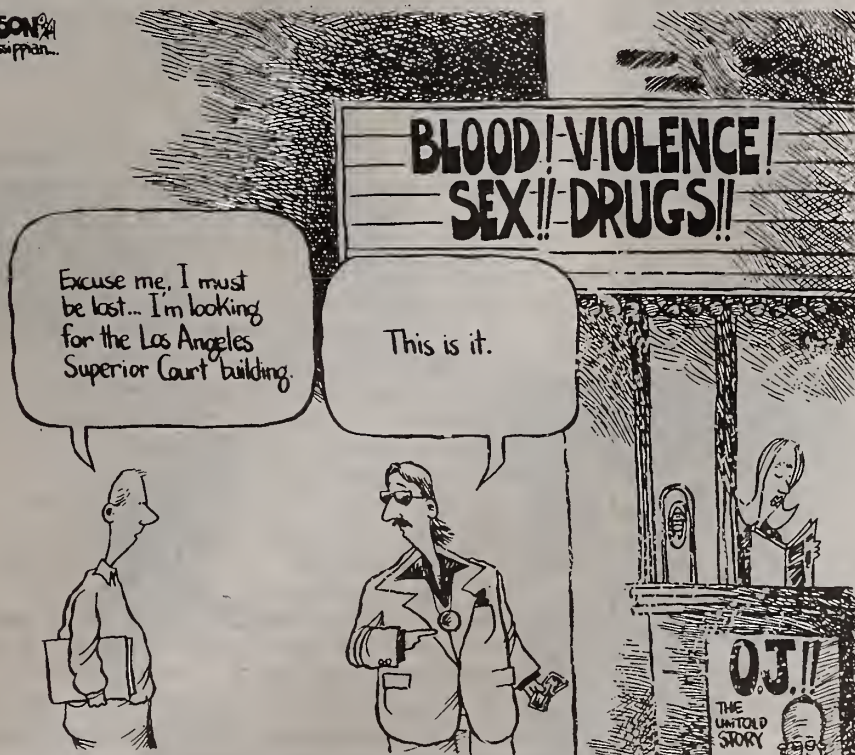
Senior Ball tickets are now on sale. Tickets can be purchased in G-Lobby at the SGA office prices are \$40.00 each.

## Shopping Mall Shuttles

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## Mayor Bean: 'still hope'

by Todd Finn  
Strobe staff

Not so long ago, there was a busy little city in North/Central Massachusetts. The happy citizens of this place called Fitchburg were proud of their prosperous town, as business was booming and troubles were few. Main Street contained numerous shops and restaurants, people rushed in and out of stores and office buildings and policemen walked their beats with an air of confidence. The downtown movie theater was within walking distance from the State College on beautiful Pearl Street and was a common gathering place of students who were looking for a night on the town.

Times quickly changed. Like the unwelcome arrival of a fierce bitter wind, gang violence, drugs and a recession came to Fitchburg. They drove away the merchants, boarded up once happily occupied dwellings and kept the local press busy with stories of crime and a city in deterioration. The college students could no longer walk to the movies because the theater was gone. The only alternative to the now non-existent night life was self-entertainment. Keg parties of legendary size took place in the nearby houses and FSC became the party school of Massachusetts. Tempers flared amongst the citizens as the beer bashes brought rowdiness to their once peaceful neighborhoods, and so the birth of ill feelings between the city and the college was born. Today, we are paying for it.

As difficult as it may be to picture Fitchburg as a real college town, I believe that one day, long after we have all graduated, it will once again thrive with life and prosperity. The streets will be lined with CD stores, new cafes, and clean, multicultural pubs where FSC students can, well, get ham-

mered! (Some things never change, even in this story.) There is a reason for all of this positive thinking and it all began last week.

You see, I've always envisioned college life as being multi-dimensional. There would be the classes, the homework and the research to deal with, but there was sure to be a lot of off-campus establishments serving as escapes for weary students. Personally, I love to spend money on "stuff." You know, useless stuff that looks good in the shopping bags and on the way home, but is nowhere to be found one week later. Regardless of that, a college town should be filled with establishments geared towards the four thousand inhabitants of the buildings on campus, so that we can buy their stuff! Fitchburg, however, just never recovered from the 1970's, and it seemed to me that there had to be a reason for the lack of economic interest in the college on Pearl Street. I needed to find some answers.

I decided to be assertive for once and called the office of Mayor Jeffrey Bean. He invited me in for an interview scheduled for a few days later and I jumped at the chance to grill the Big Wig on Main Street. Dressing up in a pair of black pants, black shoes, white shirt, sweater and even a tie, (I picked it up at one of those stores where you can buy good stuff. It wasn't in Fitchburg, either), I drove up to City Hall and waited for my opportunity.

I had prepared several questions for him, questions that would give me the answers we all want to hear. "Why can't we have a little business-village for college students, as do most other schools in America? Why can't you re-direct the drug dealers, gangs and violent criminals away from our college neighborhood? What can we do to help improve relations between the

college students and the citizens of Fitchburg?" and "Do you honestly believe in us as a willing student body, or do you still blame us for the mistakes of a few?"

As I walked into his office, Mayor Jeffrey Bean shook my hand and let me sit in the old, high-backed leather seat right in front of his desk. "Man," I thought, "Where does this guy get all of this neat stuff?" Immediately, Mayor Bean began explaining the history of the city, what went wrong over the years, and most importantly, what is going to happen in the near future.

Addressing the crime issue first, the Mayor explained that although the crime rate has been overwhelming in recent years, there has been a steady decline due to a beefed-up police force. Also, gang activity has been cut in half and foot patrolmen have been walking the streets of our college neighborhoods. "Actually," I thought, "that kind of bites for those of us who happen to be staggering home..." Anyway, at least there is an effort being made.

According to Mayor Bean, there is a major effort being put forth to connect the city to the college... literally. Providing me with a proposed plan for the new Fitchburg State College area, he pointed out the rebuilt train station, the demolished "Jungle Area" between the college and downtown Fitchburg, replaced with college-style retail stores along the new, widened North Street, and potential pubs and shops designed with the students in mind. "Great," I thought "this guy's going to make sure I can get all the stuff I want without having to drive to Attleboro. But where are we all going to park?"

Again, Mayor Bean had the answer. He revealed to

Continued on page 7.

## Letter to the editor

In September of this year I was called by Professor John McKeon. He asked if we could address the students and explain our views concerning the prohibition of marijuana. We told him we were anxious to do so. Professor McKeon had to get approval from the Student Government Association and make arrangements for the auditorium. When the campus "health" officials got wind of our intentions they decided that we would be accompanied by someone to represent a viewpoint in opposition to ours; in short, a Drug Warrior. We agreed to a debate format.

We found out later that [other] political viewpoints, such as ours, are often presented to students and the opposing viewpoint has not been required.

Your campus has a "drug education" group called Smart Choices...

Smart Choices apparently had great difficulty locating a person to speak in opposition to legalization. Professor McKeon called us hoping we would refer him to someone who would do so. A couple of weeks later the debate was scheduled for November 17. Another youth drug counselor, named Chris Pender, had been found who was able to speak. Apparently their search of Massachusetts had turned up no one willing to debate us... So where did they finally find this brave drug warrior? There must have been one in New England somewhere. Nope. New York? Sorry. Philadelphia, Washington [D.C.] or Baltimore? Nix. In order to have a speaker to debate us they had to fly a guy up from Key West, Florida, over 1,500 miles away! And he could only speak with authority about the use of marijuana by children, [and] would not be familiar with the issue of marijuana regulation as a social policy! They could not find anyone closer [who was] willing to defend the prohibition of marijuana.

Steve Levine, Mass Cann Board member and I volunteered to represent the idea that marijuana should be regulated. We arrived to find Smart Choices setting up their information table. Their literature spoke only to the issue of the medical effects of marijuana abuse. Like most other state, federal and locally sponsored "drug education" organizations, their literature was peppered with lies...

Before the debate began Steve and I spoke with Chris Pender and found that he knew almost nothing about the social policy aspects of the marijuana debate. He knew all about treating children whose addictions included marijuana, but

seeing as no one was suggesting that children should have access to marijuana, he had very little to contribute [to the debate]. Chris wasn't sure if marijuana should be prohibited or not. That's right folks, the man whom the Smart Choices folks had searched the nation for, and must have paid hundreds of dollars to fly up all the way from Florida couldn't even say that he supported the prohibition of marijuana. Mid-debate Mr. Pender admitted that it would be best to explore the possibility of regulating vs. prohibiting marijuana. At that point, Steve and I knew that we had won the debate.

Before we cry too loudly about the waste of precious tax resources spent to fly Mr. Pender from Florida for his non-debate, perhaps we should consider why he came and how those monies might have been otherwise spent. As we left the debate Professor McKeon conceded that Chris Pender was not in opposition to our ideas, and that flying him up here might have been a waste, but, he noted, "... perhaps Chris will have an opportunity to visit with his family while he's here." Perhaps the only reason that Mr. Pender was willing to travel for a debate about a subject of which he knew very little was for a free ride home to see his family. It may seem galling that our hard-earned tax dollars are being given out as favors, but consider the alternative. If that money hadn't been spent flying Chris up to see his family, it might well have been spent printing up more marijuana "fact sheets" full of lies.

The money went to a good cause — bringing Chris Pender up for a visit with his family. The only question is: Is this how your hard-earned tax dollars should be spent?

We want to sincerely thank Professor McKeon and the FSC Administration and student body for welcoming us to your campus. We appreciate the difficulty of dealing with issues like ours and are thankful to have been offered this opportunity. We truly hope that our having gloated publicly over our victory will not prejudice our future consideration

Pot smokers are not criminals,  
Bill Downing

President, Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition

(Editor's Note: This letter has been condensed in the interest of space.)



# A new year together

by Maxime Polynice  
Contributing writer

As I begin the new year, I think of myself as one with a vision in mind, a dream to fulfill, a mind to expand and, most importantly, an optimistic attitude about life on campus. I hope to make this college a better place to live. Therefore let us, the students of FSC promote an ideal campus that other schools will envy. I'm not a recruiter or promoter for any organization, my only wish is to create an environment of trust among the various groups on this campus. I hope my words can reach many.

Reflecting upon the season and the new year during my winter break, I found myself thinking about our school. I looked forward to a new semester, perhaps a more successful one academically. Sometimes at night many friendly images would come into my mind — the pleasant reassuring smile of a teacher, the pat on the back from

a new friend or the persevering look of a classmate.

My new year's resolutions didn't include deprogramming from my mind memories of people with whom I came into contact last semester. To do so is equivalent to taking one step forward and seven steps backward. Ignoring people I once had good relations with complicates life on campus. Those faces you may despise now will most likely be around for a number of years.

How can the reputation of this school be kept without the support of its students? Focusing on student life eliminates unnecessary trends of behavior. Once in college, every student should try to change his or her old habits, whether they are cocky high school attitudes, wild behavior, racism, negativity, pessimism, excessive drinking or drug abuse.

Similarities rather than disparities seem to be dominant on campus. All students must worry not only about grades and

keeping up with a program of study but must also worry about the amount of support they receive from others at school.

Through my interaction with students on campus I realized that the student body represents a socio-cultural variety beneficial to all. Keep in mind that the world is made up of different kinds of people and how one interacts with those different people might determine one's success or failure in the world. College to me is a place where I wish to grow and gain a new competitive outlook on the world. My college education will be a powerful tool of superior caliber. It will allow me to understand my world and make it a better place to live in prosperously.

It is important for us, in our difficult moments, to remember the advice of wise teachers. Let's not indulge in the types of behavior that devalue any portion of the FSC community.

## BEAN, continued from page 6.

me the deal he is cutting with the college to "swap land." The North Street Park and handball courts will belong to FSC and the city will build a newer park somewhere around our campus. On the newly acquired lot, FSC will build one of those enormous parking garages, possibly even two or three.

To sweeten the whole deal even more, there are plans for an outdoor amphitheater for small concerts and supervised activities. The street will be lined with a beautiful landscape of trees and wood chips, and the

new fire station will be located at the south end of North Street, providing students with a little extra security. They'll probably be able to respond to those infamous Russell Tower fire alarms at 3 a.m., too.

"Ultimately," commented Bean, "you will be able to stand at the train station, look directly up the street, and see the State College from there." There is still hope, folks.

Mayor Bean believes that the students at FSC need to begin to make the change today, and I agree with him. We have

the potential to get involved with the community by participating in local fund raisers, donating time to public charities, and making good things happen. There are thousands of us here, and we could very well take the initiative by volunteering a little time. Before the first bulldozer rolls in to beautify the surface of our neighborhood, we need to renovate the relations with the people and businesses of our own. It's time for all of us to be a little more assertive, as we can no longer wait for Fitchburg to come to us.

# Professor X not a crook

by Leo Bray  
Strobe staff

Usually when you hear the words "copyright law" you think of the FBI warning at the beginning of a videocassette or the little sticker on a new package of computer software. Recently I was informed that a professor I know (Professor X, who did not wish to be identified herein) was accused of violating copyright law. The copyrighted material wasn't of either medium mentioned above, but was on audio cassette. Remember those? They came after vinyl records and before CDs. I think they still make them — I have one of those things that plays them in my car.

Copyright laws are designed to ensure that the profits for sale of the materials go to the proper person(s), and to prevent others from selling unauthorized copies of the materials. Did you ever think that such laws would interfere with your education?

They're causing difficulties for some students of Professor X. This faculty member had homemade copies of audio cassettes on reserve in the library. You know what that means, the material the students need to examine can only be taken out overnight (in some cases, reserve materials are not allowed to leave the library at all). Professors put publications or recordings on reserve if many students must have access to them. Sometimes there are a limited number of copies available in the library. Other times the library doesn't have the material at all, but holds a professor's materials on reserve for students. Having to study the material in the library or hurriedly at home in a single evening can sometimes be a nuisance.

But imagine the reserve material you need not being there when you go to get it. I don't mean it's been taken out by someone else — the library refused to keep it on reserve for your professor. Apparently someone on the library staff interprets the copyright laws differently than Professor X does.

I don't think many people would argue against the need for copyright protection; I certainly won't. If I someday get

paid to write something, I want ALL the profits. Even the distribution of free copies can take profits away from the copyright holder, as each free copy replaces a retail copy someone won't have to buy.

But copyright laws aren't completely restrictive. When these laws were first enacted, education was considered. There is a provision in the law for free use for educational purposes. We've all received photocopied articles, chapters, poems — copyrighted materials — from faculty members. They're not criminals; they're educators doing their best to disseminate a vast amount of material to us without having to order twenty or thirty books per class.

Are our professors robbing starving authors of their livelihood? I doubt it. Even the largest single photocopied excerpt I've ever received in a class probably composed less than 1 percent of the original published work. Would I have bought the complete work simply to look at those few pages? Of course not.

Two facts about Professor X's problem make the copyright vigilance seem absurd. First, the original author has been dead for centuries. In modern business, money owed to the deceased party would be paid to some survivor. In this case, I doubt that copyrights were a consideration in the author's last will and testament.

The second fact that makes this whole situation seem ridiculous pertains to the question of profits from the sale of authorized copies. Let's assume that our author left the rights for his works to someone and meticulous records of these rights have been kept since before the white man came to North America. In such a case, there would be some distant descendant waiting to collect the profits if Prof. X ordered every student in the class to purchase a copy of the recording.

How much would this copyright holder stand to make? Nothing. The recording is out of print — there are no more copies to be purchased. The company that produced the material stopped doing so years ago. Who or what is being protected by this legal misinterpretation?



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# Rottin Razkals: a step above rotten

by Jason Koivu  
Strobe staff

Rottin Razkals "A-Yo" (pre-released single)

\*\*

If there was such a thing as music police, they'd be at this accident by the Rottin Razkals called "A-Yo" telling listeners to "move along, move along. There's nothing to hear."

This debut release single is nothing to rave about. It suffers from first release syndrome. The signs are unmistakable. The most obvious being that the group writes a song and includes their name in it. The Rottin Razkals' case was more subtle than some and so there's still a 50/50 chance they'll pull through.

Their chances definitely improved due to the songs' undeniable groove. The rhythm rolls on "A-Yo." The B-side song, "Oh Yeah" recollects 70s disco with its smooth beat and deep bass. However, rhythm is only part of R&B. The lyrics aren't a total waste the whole way

through, not like the chorus, anyway. A line like "A-yo, here we go, here we go," is just too easy.

The lyrics aren't in the gangsta style, but they're not in the wimpy, vocal harmonized style, either. To say that they were positive would also be wrong. It would be better to say that the lyrics are heading in a positive direction. Group member Jeff "Diesel" Ray explained the group's stance in their bio, "We rap about what's really goin' down in the streets, but we're not 'gangsta rappers'. Our songs don't promote senseless violence, or tell kids it's cool to be strapped (carry guns)."

The full CD, Rottin Ta Da Core, produced by Naughty By Nature, will be released March 14 on Illtown Records. According to their bio, the Rottin Razkals have been touring with Naughty By Nature for two years. Knowing the success Naughty has had, one would think it would have a positive affect on the younger, less experienced group. That remains to be seen.



The Rottin Razkals from left to right, "Diesel," "Fam," and "Chap."

## Murder in the First

by Karen Murphy  
Staff writer

Murder in the First  
\*\*\*\*

Marc Rocco's new film, "Murder in the First" is an exploration behind the walls of Alcatraz, the most feared prison system in the world. This film is set in 1938 and focuses on the experiences of Henri Young, played by Kevin Bacon, a twenty-something criminal imprisoned on the island penitentiary. Young's experiences at Alcatraz eventually provoked the closing of the prison years later.

Sentenced to Alcatraz on petty theft charges, Young masterminded a failed escape attempt. He was immediately captured and placed into solitary confinement under the orders of a sadistic warden played by Gary Oldman.

Young spent the next three years in a small dungeon cell with no sunlight, clothes or showers. He was tortured by the warden on a regular basis.

In a nearly catatonic state, Young is finally released back into the prison population only to explode in a fit of revenge and kill the informant responsible for his confinement.

After Young is charged with first degree murder his attorney, James Stamphill, played by Christian Slater, charges the Alcatraz prison system with turning Young into a killer.

This film does a good job at evoking an unsettling pity towards the killer. Bacon's acting ability has obviously flourished into a genuine art -- a definite must-see.

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# Retro movie review

by Jason Koivu  
Strobe staff

The Man Who Fell To Earth  
(Starring David Bowie, Buck  
Henry, Rip Torn and Candy  
Clark)  
\*\*\*

By 1976, David Bowie had not fully exhausted his spacey oddities. However, it was not long after starring in *The Man Who Fell To Earth* that Bowie gave up those tendencies, leaving behind a momentarily memorable movie that has been long forgotten.

The film documents an alien's (Bowie) attempt to return to his home planet. Bowie is allowed to maintain his accent, as the alien happens to be posing as an Englishman who calls himself Sussex, one of his many phoney names.

After starting out with only the clothes on his back and a ring that he attempts to pawn for \$20,

Sussex begins to accumulate a fortune. Without explanation as to how it was done, he acquires nine patents from major corporations and brings them to a lawyer, played by Buck Henry, who estimates their worth to be about 300 million dollars. However, the alien decides that he still needs more money, so he somehow gains possession of the copyright to the Bible.

Once he has obtained enough funds, Sussex returns to what is believed to be the place where his ship landed, a large lake in the wilderness of mid-western America. On his way, he meets a simple hotel maid named Mary Lou, played by Candy Clark, who falls in love with his peculiar ways. Even after the alien reveals himself, Mary Lou is at first frightened, but still remains with him and comes to pity his situation.

The movie makes an ambitious attempt to gloss such issues

as the environment's depletion, the threat of capitalism's overwhelming nature, and the mind-numbing ability of television. At one point Sussex, who Mary Lou calls Tommy, becomes so enthralled with TV that he ignores her completely, allowing himself to be swallowed up by the violent and emotional images on the screen. Stealing a line from the Who's rock opera, Mary Lou cries out, "Tommy can you hear me!"

Finally, the alien's motives are revealed. He just wants to go home. With his acquired fortune, he funds a secret project to design another space craft. Rip Torn, who plays a university doctor specializing in fuel conservation when he's not busy fooling around with his female students, is hired by Sussex for his expertise. Torn's character, like Mary Lou, is fascinated by the ways of the alien and is the only other earthling that Sussex

reveals himself to. As an actor, Torn is stiff and delivers his lines in a dry tone. However, he does manage to follow his role as a compassionate womanizer quite well. While he is sympathetic towards the alien, he also runs away with Mary Lou and leaves Sussex to believe that she does not care for him.

The plot is probably the weakest point in this movie. It strides with limited success for the avant-garde, but in the meanwhile steps on the toes of structure. For instance, Sussex is an alien who has traveled in a space ship, yet he gets car sick. Another problem that goes unresolved is that Sussex landed in America and has an English accent. But that's a problem that may actually add a bit of insight to the creator's motives. Is his double alien status (a space alien on Earth and an Englishman in America) an accident or a pertinent innuendo?

The special effects and props are low-budget cheese. In fact, the supposed ship that Sussex came to Earth upon looks like a huge wedge of cheese with windows and a door.

As an alien, Bowie is physically appropriate for the part. With his multicolored eyes, vampire smile, and pale, skeletal frame he hardly needs make-up. It's difficult to judge how well he played his role, because who knows what it's like to be a space alien? As an actor he did an admirable job delivering his lines and expressing nearly stoic emotion.

As a whole, "*The Man Who Fell To Earth*" makes a decent attempt to let Bowie explore his fetish to its fullest extent. Though there was a lot of ground to cover, it still could have been a bit shorter. This is best recommended to fans of the eccentric musician and to film students looking for a bit of comic relief.

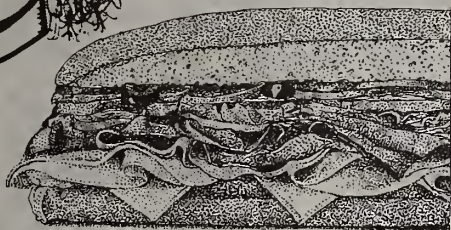
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## New Highlander falls short of original

by Kevin Robertson  
Staff writer

Highlander: The Final Dimension  
\*\*

Conner McLeod returns to the big screen in "*Highlander: The Final Dimension*" (subtitled "*The Apology*") the third of this movie series. The long awaited sequel to the original *Highlander* (most fans disregard *Highlander II* as a bad dream) brings McLeod, played by Christopher Lambert, back to his search for the prize.

McLeod, a 15th century Scotsman, was blessed at birth with immortality. The only way he can be killed is to be beheaded by another member of the immortal race. The members of this race are drawn together

in New York for the "Gathering," where they all battle and kill each other for the prize. The original movie features the final battle between the Highlander and Kurgan, his arch enemy.

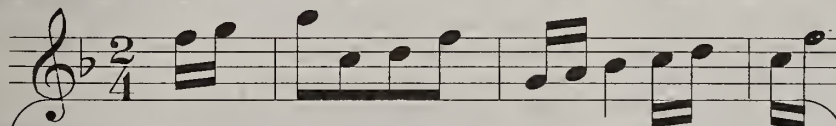
Unfortunately for *Highlander III*, the only thing that changes is the look of the villain. McLeod is now living in Marakesh with his adopted son, John. When he was still training for the prize in the 1600s, he escaped an immortal mage named Kaine, played by Mario Van Peebles, and thought him dead. But in true Hollywood fashion, he thought wrong. So he goes back to New York and gets himself in the same jam he got in during the first movie.

There are some major flubs in the movie. McLeod enters his

New York apartment for the first time in eight years and when he opens the refrigerator, not only does he not die from the stench, but he picks up and drinks a beer. He's also able to start his eight year dormant car on the first try. Not only does he have immortality, but the secret to keeping beer and car batteries fresh.

Van Peebles, as Kaine, is humorous, but acts exactly like Kurgan. After being trapped for 400 years, he can not only move his limbs, but drive a car.

If you can over look the repetitive plot and characterization as well as major plot holes, you'll enjoy this. If you've never seen the first movie, I recommend you see it. And between the two movies, I recommend the original over *The Final Dimension*. There can be only one!



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# Lady hoopsters drop heartbreaker

by Norman Miller  
Staff writer

The Fitchburg State women's basketball team lost to the Lancers of Worcester State College by a score of 62-58. Worcester was playing without their top gun Patty Aguir, and FSC made a run at earning their first victory.

The Lady Falcons, (0-7 in the MASCAC, 0-14 overall), led at the half by a score of 22-21. Paced by Pam Wilkman's nine first-half points, as well as Allyson McGinn's eight rebounds and five steals, the team held the Lancers scoreless for the first seven minutes of the contest.

After spotting the Falcons a 12-2 lead, the Lancers fought their way back, taking a 21-20 lead with 1:01 left in the half. Then, Debbie Milhaley hit a jumper to give FSC the one point halftime lead.

The Falcons and Lancers traded baskets in the second half until the score was tied at 27 apiece. Worcester rattled off

six unanswered points before Fitchburg's Amy Harrington sunk a shot to pull the home team within four. Soon after that, Allyson McGinn picked up her fourth foul, and was forced to sit the bench for a while.

Pam Wilkman stepped up and hit her third three pointer of the game to make it 35-33, but the Lancers fought back via the fastbreak and FSC turnovers. Eventually, the lead was extended to ten, but the scrappy Falcons cut the deficit to three with just over a minute to play. That, however, would be as close as the game would get.

With 12 seconds remaining, Wilkman had a chance to win the game with another three pointer (15 attempted in the game), but it fell short of the rim. Worcester made a worthwhile trip to the freethrow line and iced the game there.

FSC was led by Pam Wilkman's 19 points and five assists, while Becky Robidoux scored 16 points and ripping down 17 boards, and McGinn hauled in 13 rebounds.

Coach Lisa Valardi



Diane Horwath pushes the ball and her team up the court.

photo by Todd Finn

said about her team's performance, "we played better, and we continue to get better, but we just have had difficulty putting it together for the full forty minutes." She was impressed

with the first-half defense, and with the play of Robidoux in the middle. The biggest problem, according to Valardi, was "we threw the ball away in the second half, and we didn't make

good decisions."

The Lady Falcons continue to seek their first victory on Tuesday at Salem State before returning home to play Rivier College.

## Nick Chareas cont. from pg 12

NC: First of all, I'm Greek. Secondly, the talent level is not too high over there because of the concentration of population in such a small country. It's sort of like a small school being compared to a larger school.

TF: Who would be considered a great player in Greece?

NC: You know Tasos Tempos? He'd be considered one of the best.

TF: About the coaching staff (FSC)...what is your assessment of them?

NC: From day one they have implemented a new attitude. There are a few posters hanging up in our locker room with quotes for success, and a winning spirit present before every game. I think they've done a pretty good job so far.

TF: There has been word of you and coach Bullok butting heads, so to speak. Is that true?

NC: To be honest with you, he and I never saw eye to eye on a lot of things. I try to respect the coaching staff, and set examples for younger players. But he used to seem like the hard attitude guy. We've had our disagreements, which usually results in my lack of playing time afterwards. I think we've come a long way.

TF: Tell us about the time when you refused to leave practice after he kicked you out.

NC: I told him that I absolutely refused to leave the gym and my team. I didn't think I had done anything wrong. It may have been a turning point for the team, sort of a never give in attitude.

TF: How many laps did you have to run for that incident?

NC: Just under five or six hun-

dred.

TF: I think it would be safe to compare you to Charles Barkley. I mean, your temperament is similar to his, your presence is felt by everyone in the building, and you're not afraid to throw an elbow to the jaw.

NC: Charles Barkley? I never heard that comparison. I guess you're right though. We're both good looking, we both play basketball, and neither of us are Chinese.

TF: What is your prediction for the team's finish this year?

NC: Anything can happen from here on in. We have all of the tools we need to beat everyone else, even Salem. What we need to do is execute at the right time. There is absolutely no reason why we cannot win the MASCAC.

TF: Sounds great, Niko. Is there anything else you'd like to say before we cut this interview short. I mean, we are on a budget at the Strobe.

NC: Yes. I just want everyone to know that it is important to be who you are. There will be good times and bad times at FSC, but eventually, it's all gonna be over. Then you're stuck with yourself. It's like that time I jumped on the Winnebago and rode on the ladder from John Fitch Highway to Campus Pizza after a scrimmage. It was freezing, it was midnight, I had shorts on, but it seemed like the right thing to do. You have to be yourself. I'd also like to say thanks to everyone in the attic, the world's greatest athlete Francis Caputo, Nikki Pappas, FooFoo, and Coach Boncci.

## Record cont. from pg 12

leadership on this young team is as admirable as that in any team I have seen at this college. Most importantly, this team has shown an overwhelming amount of heart and deserves a pat on the back every now and then.

I would venture to say that there is not a single coach in the MASCAC who would deny a Falcon player a spot on his or her team. Allyson McGinn is a perennial All Star, Becky Robidoux will never be denied in the post and Diane Horwath has learned the position of point guard so quickly that she is destined to become one of the best in no time at all. FSC also has the luxury of dressing one of the most natural three point shooters in the college, male or female. Pam Wilkman can stick the trey with the consistency of desert heat, and has been a major point contributor as of late. These women have what it takes to dominate the conference in just

a season or two, and with Valardi directing the show, I would bet every credit hour I've earned that they finish in the upper half of the MASCAC next season. But this season is far from over.

This basketball team will not go winless. They will travel to Framingham next Tuesday and beat the Rams because they are thirsty for that elusive first win. They may even upset one of the top teams before this season comes to a close, and what a grand sight it would be to see them do it at home.

One notable fact about the Lady Falcons is that they really are a fun team to watch. There is never a lack of emotion, and never a missed high five. Everybody is involved in the game, and nobody points fingers when something goes wrong. This team has always fought together, and they have always gone down together. They have built a solid relationship which will prove to be a major factor in the future of

this program. College athletics is not about winning and losing, but rather learning and building. Just as one would shape a lump of clay into a stunning piece of pottery, teammates and coaches transform raw talent into champions. It takes time and effort, and this program has both of them on its side.

Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." I'm sure Mr. Thoreau would say these words to our women's team, as they continue to march on and find themselves. When they do, we will praise them and brag about their feats. However, I think they would appreciate our support now, today, as we can help them realize those dreams of glory. We need to accept the fact that this, indeed, is our basketball team.

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# WINTER UPDATE

by Todd Finn  
Strobe staff.

## HOCKEY ROMPS TO 14 STRAIGHT

After suffering some early season losses in New York and a heartbreaker to UMass Dartmouth, the Champions of the Northeast have compiled 14 victories in a row and remain unbeaten in the MASCAC. Steve Baldassare, Matt Park, and Dan Genatossio are leading the conference in scoring, while goaltender Rob Horn has been superb between the pipes, stopping blast after devastating blast in most of the Falcon wins.

After a brief absence, second season goalie Aaron Abitz has returned to the roster, posting a win over Assumption last week. In fact, every player has made a significant contribution to the relentless pounding of opponents in recent weeks. FSC will host North Adams State College tonight at 7:30. For whom the bell tolls, time marches on!

## MEN'S BASKETBALL SURPRISES

The success of the hockey team has come to be expected, but FSC has not put together a winning men's basketball team since the days of Martin Raynor. This season, however, the men of the Parkinson Hardwood have won more games than in the past two seasons combined. This has truly been a highlight season for the team, as senior-captain Richard Harding scored his 1,000th point over winter break. Even more publicized was Mike Raimon's ESPN play of the week, viewed by millions around the world. Nick Chareas, Chris Hunt, and Adam Connery have played solid minutes in the paint, and Seante Harris has become a crowd favorite with the athleticism of a Laker. The return of Eric Freund has proven to be a major factor in conference games as of late, and David Anwar's Philadelphia sharpshooting has given FSC a new look.

The only downside to this season is the team's inability to finish off the pesky, mediocre opponents. They have blown out the weaker teams, and been likewise spanked by the superior clubs. But the majority of their losses can be attributed to not playing to their potential against beatable teams. Tomorrow night, FSC plays one of those beatable clubs as Rivier makes the trip from Nashua. Let's see if the Falcons have what it takes to get back on track.

## NO EASY BREAKS FOR WOMEN'S HOOP

Still searching for that devious first victory, the Lady Hoopsters are improving with each difficult outing. In her second season of coaching, Lisa Valardi has truly given new meaning to the word "rebuilding," as many of her players are learning new positions. With the loss of All-Star point guard Kathleen May, Valardi has slated Diane Horwath as her new backcourt general. Allyson McGinn has been plagued with injuries, but continues to contribute both offensively and defensively, listed as one of the top shot-blockers in the conference. Sophomore Becky Robidoux has been a solid rebounder and scorer as well, but the competition in the MASCAC is slightly out of her reach just yet. However, this team will one day dominate the conference, as Lisa Valardi is indeed one of the classiest and most masterful coaches around. If anyone can, she'll find a way to turn things around.

## GAGLIANI SPRINTS TO N.E. 3

Daniel Webster once said "The courage of New England is the courage of conscience." FSC athlete Wendy Gagliani has consciously displayed that courage this season, as she has recently qualified for competition in the New England Division 3 Invitational.

The 5'7" Junior from Medway, Massachusetts has dominated the competition over the Indoor Track regular season. She is seconds away from setting a new FSC record for the 400-meter hurdles, and has posted a time of 60.2 in the 400-meter run. Gagliani will be named "All-American" if she finishes in the top 8 during the Nationals, and has been nominated for the Top Female Athlete Award here at Fitchburg State College.

The Indoor track teams are not able to compete at home, because there is not an indoor track for them to call their own. However, these traveling wonders will be in Maine competing against Colby and Bowdoin, two schools that never give due respect to state colleges. It may be a good idea to take a trip to Brunswick on Saturday. Spend the day with Wendy as she tramples the high-priced competition, and attempts to smash that record.

# FSC VS. FSC

by Todd Finn  
Strobe staff

Twice a year we play them, the other FSC.

They claim they have a better school, a better place to be. They prance around in their black and gold, they call themselves the Rams.

These poor fools are nobody else but the athletes from Framingham.

We kicked their ass in football, way back in mid-September. And the field hockey team scored a million goals, as their goalie may still remember.

Whenever we see them on the court you know the crowd will roar,

Because the Ram will try its best to climb, but the Falcon will always soar.

So jump in the car and take a trip to the college on route 9.

The Men's and Women's basketball teams will be sure to play just fine.

Let's pack their gym with our green and gold and let those people see,

That our basketball teams are a cut above, and there's only one FSC.

\* DIRECTIONS: Take Route 2 to I-495 south. Follow that to exit 23A, Framingham-Route 9 exit. Follow Route 9 West to the Framingham-Southboro off ramp. DO NOT TAKE THE UNDERPASS. The first set of lights is in Framingham Centre and from this location you can see the college on the hill to your left. At the lights, take a left turn over Route 9. Take the first right and then the first left onto State Street. The main entrance to the campus is on the left side of State Street. Refer to the map at the main entrance to locate the gym. Game time is 5:30 for women, 7:30 for the men.

## Sports weekly schedule

Wednesday, February 8:

\*HOCKEY NIGHT AT THE CIVIC CENTER!! FSC TAKES ON NORTH ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AT 7:30.

Thursday, February 9:

\*BASKETBALL DOUBLEHEADER!! WOMEN'S HOOPTAKES ON RIVIER AT 6:00 AND THEN THE MEN GO FOR THE SEASON SWEEP OF RIVIER AT 8:00.

Saturday, February 11:

\*MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK TRAVEL TO MAINE, TO MEET COLBY AND BOWDOIN.

\*THEN AT 2:00, ALLYSON MCGINN AND THE LADY FALCONS TAKE ON WESTFIELD STATE AT HOME.

\*FINALLY, MEN'S BASKETBALL WESTFIELD AT 4:00.

# From the locker room

*Nobody is asking but...*

by Todd Finn  
Strobe staff

\* With only two home games remaining before the playoffs, it is very important that we pack in the rowdy fans at the hockey games. As the team plays at a much higher level of intensity when there is a full house at the Wallace Civic Center, it is imperative that we send them off on a high note.

\* Although the New England Patriots gave us something to cheer about over the late fall and early winter, we need to look at the big picture carefully. Before anyone can even think about seeing the Pats in the Superbowl next season, keep in mind that they still have yet to make it out of a Cleveland or Miami game with a win. The road to next year's Superbowl will be best traveled by the team that dominated its own division and affiliated conference. New England still needs work.

\* If M.L. Carr is smart, he will unload almost every Celtic player he's got over the summer. Rick Fox is useless, Dominique Wilkins is no longer the human highlight film and Dino Radja, although producing offensively, does not play any defense. Carr should keep Derek Strong, Eric Montross and David Wesley. Dee Brown would be a good trade bait and Acie Earl...well, he's always going to be Acie Earl. Bring in the athletes and dump the driftwood.

\* In case you didn't hear about what really happened in the NHL lockout resolution, I have taken full credit for the return of hockey as we know it. That's right, your very own Sports Editor marched right up to the owners and said "Hey, if you give us back the Bruins, I'll sell you Fitchburg State College." Consequently, the B's are back on ice, we once again have a team to root for and we'll all be "locked out" of the dorms beginning next week. Negotiations begin on Monday. You're welcome.

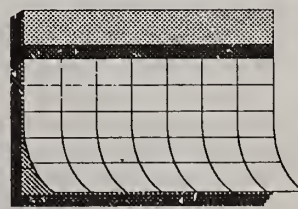
\* I cannot believe that the Bruins are picked by most experts to finish forth in their division. What's even worse is that Quebec is picked to finish first! Now I may be wrong, but aren't these the guys in the toothpaste colored uniforms with little red diamonds on their jerseys? Isn't this the team that usually loses to Winnipeg? Maybe there is another Quebec team I'm not aware of, but I'm still going with the scrappy Bruins over the 48 games.

\* The only cool part of the Superbowl Halftime Show was when that guy caught on fire and fell off the stage. But after that, I'm pretty sure I saw Tony Bennett singing what was supposed to be a song from the Lion King. Who the hell came up with this crap? We need less old people singing and more people on fire next year. A decent game would be nice, too.

## Bruins cont. from pg 12

hero for all of New England.

Now that the Bruins are back, the Boston Garden is crazed, once again, with the opportunity of winning a Stanley Cup in the building's final year of existence. The way I see it, the Rangers did it last year, why the hell not.





# Women's basketball: Look beyond the record

by Todd Finn  
Strobe staff

From the moment we are able to differentiate between what is right and what is wrong, people tell us that if we work very hard, good things will happen. There have been thousands of quotes, stories and proverbs written telling us that the good guys always win and winning is the trademark of a champion. All of these ideas must be rattling around inside of the minds of the women's basketball players and coaches, as their intense efforts in rebuilding have come up short. However, I offer a different perspective on this 0-14 team, and urge everyone to look beyond the numbers.

Three years ago, there was not a single women's basketball team that wanted to play FSC. Their dominant, physical style of play led them to a MASCAC title and produced

record-breaking female athletes. Unfortunately, we must let our graduating Falcons fly away from Fitchburg and make room for younger, less experienced players who have not yet earned their degrees. The 1994-95 edi-

tion of FSC women's hoop may not be the team of yesterday, but without a doubt, they are the team of tomorrow.

Head coach Lisa Valardi has taken on a task which is never anxiously sought

after by many second-year coaches. She has been dealt a difficult hand to play, and her cards do not quite have the trumping power to defeat more experienced players. However, she has held them close and

played them with extreme caution to this point. Coach Valardi knows that it is not necessarily the face value of her cards that dictate a win or a lose, but it is the way she plays them that determines the final outcome. Timing is everything, and she will pull out the aces long before her time is over.

Many people will look at their record and assume that they are not worthy of fanfare and followers. I strongly disagree. This group of athletes deserves a lot of credit for wearing the name of our college across jerseys, and playing for a team that nobody else wants to be a part of. Not one of them has given up, and nobody is thinking about throwing in the towel. They can be found in the gymnasium every single night, conditioning, working, learning and waiting for that first win. The talent is there. The know-how is ever-present, and the

Continued on page 10.



Pam Wilkman (12) denies the opposition's attempt to run a play while, Becky Robidoux (44) fills the passing lane. photo by Todd Finn

# Falcon's Nest welcomes: Nick Chareas

by Todd Finn  
Strobe staff

Every once in a while, an athlete comes along who becomes the symbolic representative of his or her team. Throughout this semester, Strobe readers will be introduced to athletic standouts through an interview in the "Falcon's Nest."

This issue finds Nick Chareas, the volatile senior center of the men's basketball team, as the first inductee into the Nest. Niko's brash style of play has become the focal point of opponents' defenses, as he muscles his way to the hoop and snatches rebound after nasty rebound.

This season, Chareas has added a new dimension to his game, that of shot blocking. He has been ranked third in the MASCAC in this category, helping his team to fend off once feared big men like North

Adams' Justin Suggs.

On campus, this Geo-Physics/Education major is well-known for his hard work in the classroom and one-of-a-kind personality. Niko could be the poster child for the Fitchburg State College Student of the '90s -- he gets the job done, he knows how to have fun, and he takes no flack from anyone. Although he will return to finish up his fifth year at FSC in the fall, Chareas will be missed by the basketball team, and will leave large shoes to fill for the next legend-to-be. Though another great center

may indeed come along, I think it is safe to say that there will never be another Nick Chareas.

I caught up with Niko

has shocked the region of Division 3 schools. What happened over the off season that turned things around so drastically?

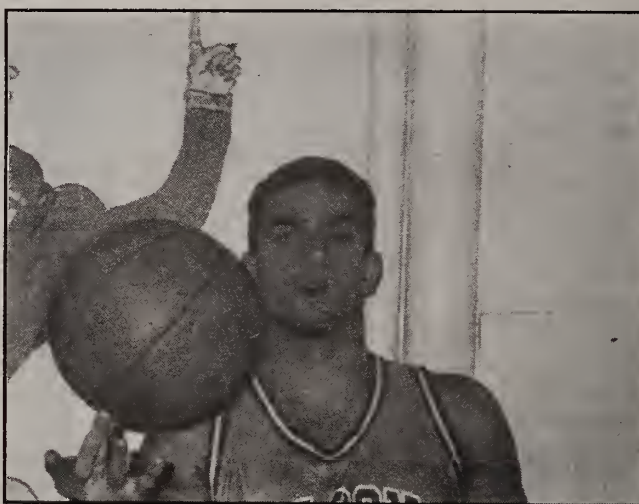
NC: During the summer, the coaching staff decided to do some heavy recruiting, and they came up with some outstanding talent for try-outs.

TF: Who, out of all of the new faces, impressed you the most?

NC: There was so much talent, but I'd have to say

Chris Hunt was the most impressive.

TF: Can you beat him, one-on-one?



FSC senior center Nick 'Niko' Chareas

photo by Todd Finn

last weekend after the team lost to Nichols College:

TF: Niko, this year's edition of the FSC men's basketball team

## Intramural update

by Brian Bicknell  
Intramural Director

Congratulations to PFCN, ND's, Gary's ol 'Town Tavern, 6Pack and the Dawgs for making the Volleyball Play-offs. The male MVP is Mike Matson who showed great tenacity from the first game to the last. His devastating serve was instrumental in PFCN's regular season record of 7-3. The female MVP is Kerri Malizia who was outstanding in all phases of the game. On some days, she was the best player in the gym.

Co-ed indoor soccer will begin on February 14, with Chuck Vincivilla's team slated as the team to beat. Men's basketball intramurals will begin on February 27th, with over 124 games to be played.

Intramural Street hockey announcements will be made in the next issue of the Strobe, as the rosters have just been turned in. The Fire Engines and Dean's List are looking tough on paper, but the games will be played in the street and only then will a champion be crowned.

## Bruins: quest for the cup '95

by Owen Bard  
Staff writer

With the Patriots miracle run at the Superbowl over, and the Celtics playing like a pick-up team at the YMCA, sports fans in New England were slowly dying. Finally, the NHL season began after the 36-game delay, and life has been given back to Boston fanatics as they cheer on the Bruins.

Actually, the NHL lockout may have been a blessing in disguise. Cam Neely had time to rest over the extended

vacation and has since scored 5 goals and 5 assists for ten points. If the Bruins make a run for the Stanley Cup, they will definitely need Neely's leadership to call themselves champions.

Ray Bourque is having a stellar season as well, tied with Neely for points. Adam Oats is making Boston management look smarter and smarter with each outing with his rugged style of play.

The B's have played well up to this point in the season, as they stand at 5-2. Defeating the World Champion

NC: Absolutely.

TF: Coming out of Tyngsboro High School, you were never really exposed to the physical style of college hoops. Who taught you to play the way you do today?

NC: There was a guy named Jeff Black who led the nation in rebounding two years ago. He was a senior when I came in, and he used to pound on me in practice. I learned a lot from him, and I can attribute much of my style to his "lessons."

TF: Jeff Black is playing professional basketball over in Israel. Do you plan to continue your career in hoops after college?

NC: I would like to go back to Greece to play ball, but I can't.

TF: Why not?

NC: Because I'm terrible.

TF: Well why would you want to play for Greece?

Continued on page 10.

New York Rangers was an early high point, but losing to the lowly Flyers leaves skeptics asking more questions. Everybody is aware of the Nordiques' and Penguins' presence in the division, so it is important for the Bruins to win every close game possible.

Goaltending looked sketchy for the hometeam at first, but Blaine Lacher has come up from Lake Superior State to claim the job. He is 5-1 with a Goals Against Average of 1.97. He may be the next hometown

Continued on page 11.